

NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 2013

Present: Sel. Bluhm, Sel. Shepard, Sel. Waldron

Also Present: Families of Mike Hutchinson and Jennifer Adams, scouts of Pack 842, Den 1, Johnny Van Tassel, Chief Raffaely, Glenn Smith, Kevin Sturgeon.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cindy Caveney swore in Jennifer Adams and Mike Hutchinson to the position of Police Sergeant.

The business meeting was convened at 6:25pm

Sel. Bluhm welcomed the scouts of Pack 842, Den 1 who were attending to observe local government proceedings.

1. Highway

Highway Superintendent Johnny Van Tassel updated the Board on Highway Department activity during his first week with Northfield. Board members asked him for maintenance schedule.

Johnny informed the Board that he has inspected the culvert at 200 Cross Mill Road. The culvert is completely blocked. He advises that the Town not take responsibility for unblocking and possibly replacing this culvert; under statutes that is the homeowner's responsibility. Board members concurred.

Sel. Waldron introduced the possibility of using fluid film to protect against rust on town equipment. He recommends that the town purchase the sprayer and product and apply it ourselves. Board members and Johnny discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal and decided to obtain pricing.

Sel. Waldron asked about the practice of carrying plows and wings on trucks all winter. Johnny reported that he and the crew had just finished fabricating devices that will allow wings to be easily detached and stored so they do not have to remain on the truck when they are not needed.

2. Administration

Board members discussed the request from the Tilton Selectmen that Northfield expend \$750 to decorate the Island for the holidays. Board members opted not to do so. Sel. Bluhm noted that lights have already been strung on the Island, including on the handrails of the bridge, which may prove to be a liability concern. Sel. Shepard and Glenn will look into this and prepare a response to present to the Tilton Selectmen in advance of their Thursday meeting.

Town Administrator Glenn Smith distributed ordinances developed by the Conservation Commission regulating the use of Granite Mills Park and Sotir Conservation Area. Board members tentatively agreed to schedule a public hearing on the matter for December 17th.

3. General Business

Board members reviewed accounts payable, payroll manifests and general correspondence. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2013 as amended. **Motion passed.** **Waldron/Bluhm** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 26, 2013. **Motion passed.** **Bluhm/Shepard** to seal the minutes of the non-public session of November 26, 2013 under the provisions of RSA91-A:3 II because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board itself. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

4. Police Department

Chief Raffaely reported that cruiser 11 is back in service.

5. Review of 2014 Proposed Budget

Board members reviewed outstanding items on 2014 budget proposal. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to fund the Island Concert Series at a level of \$2,000. **Motion passed 2-1.** **Shepard/Bluhm** moved to include \$80,000 in the 2014 budget for repair of Cannon Bridge. **Motion passed 2-1.** **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to include \$174,848 for repair of the paved and gravel portions of Rand Road. **Motion passed 2-1.** Board members discussed the type of truck to include in the budget to replace the Highway Department F450. **Waldron/** moved to include \$109,950. **Motion died** for lack of a second. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to include \$96,000. **Motion passed 2-1.** Board members discussed merit pool options for 2014, weighing personnel and salary concerns with the need to not overburden taxpayers. Board members agreed by consensus to include a merit pool equal to 3% of eligible salary expense in the 2014 budget.

6. Non-Public Session

Bluhm/Shepard moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A3IIa at 8:45pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.** Present at the non-public session were Chief Raffaely and Glenn Smith. **Bluhm/Shepard** moved to reconvene the public session at 9:16pm. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Waldron/Bluhm moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session under the provisions of RSA91-A:3 II because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board itself. **Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.**

Sel. Waldron noted that the town is paying a rental fee on the town hall water cooler, he feels that water could be provided more cheaply by purchasing a unit. Glenn said he would follow up on this.

Sel. Waldron noted that Sel. Shepard did an outstanding job filling in as Highway Superintendent Sel. Bluhm concurred.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm

APPROVED BY THE NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON DECEMBER 10, 2013